

STAR Communities announced yesterday that Seattle has been awarded a 5-STAR Community Rating for national leadership in sustainability. The City achieved the highest score to date, and is only the second in the nation to achieve the 5-STAR rating for its participation in the STAR Community Rating System (STAR), which evaluates the livability and sustainability of U.S. communities.

Along with local government partners and other stakeholders, STAR Communities developed and implemented a robust sustainability rating system for cities, towns and counties. Its national rating program helps communities evaluate themselves in seven sustainability goal areas: Built Environment, Climate & Energy, Economy & Jobs, Education, Arts & Community, Equity & Empowerment, Health & Safety, and Natural Systems.

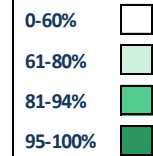
OSE led Seattle's STAR assessment and engaged over 200 staff from nearly every City department, as well as several external agencies and organizations, to complete the submittal. The assessment examined over 500 outcomes and actions through STAR's rating system. Seattle's 5-STAR certification confirms our long-standing reputation as a sustainability leader.

The summary table on page two provides a snapshot of Seattle's overall achievement. We received perfect or nearly perfect scores in 21 out of 44 objective areas; however, STAR objective areas where we performed the lowest were environmental justice, targeted industry development, ambient noise and light, indoor air quality, working lands, human services, and invasive species.

Several efforts stood out among our sustainability initiatives:

- **Commitment to Carbon Neutrality:** We received credit for Seattle City Light's commitment to carbon neutrality, as well as the City's goal set forth in the Climate Action Plan.
- **Leading Edge Energy Efficiency Programs:** Community Power Works, an innovative energy efficiency and economic development program, has led to home energy upgrades for over 3000 families while helping grow local home contractors' businesses. Seattle's low-income residents also benefit from energy upgrades through HomeWise, a program that provides free weatherization services. Seattle's Energy Benchmarking program requiring commercial property owners to track and report energy usage has one of the highest compliance rates in the country.
- **The Green Seattle Partnership (GSP):** This unique public-private partnership is working to restore and maintain Seattle's forested parklands. The GSP has engaged thousands of volunteers since 2005—resulting in nearly 650,000 volunteer hours spent planting over 150,000 trees and restoring over 1,000 acres of parkland throughout the city. GSP also partners with Seattle Goodwill Industries in a work readiness program targeting at-risk young adults and providing them with on-the-job training in restoration and trail maintenance.
- **Transportation Choices:** Seattle is one of only five cities in the nation where less than half of commuters are driving alone to work. Since 2011, Seattle has seen a 59% increase in bicycling and a 27% increase in pedestrian traffic.

Seattle is one of more than 30 local governments that participated in a year-long pilot program with STAR Communities. Since its launch in 2012, more than 80 communities, representing 34 million residents, are participating in STAR. While 18 other communities have been certified, only Northampton, MA has achieved a 5-STAR rating along with Seattle.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT 93.5/100	CLIMATE & ENERGY 90/100	EDUCATION, ARTS & COMMUNITY 61.5/70	ECONOMY & JOBS 83.1/100	EQUITY & EMPOWERMENT 75.8/100	HEALTH & SAFETY 90.9/100	NATURAL SYSTEMS 83.2/100	INNOVATION & PROCESS 50/50
Ambient Noise & Light 2.4/5	Climate Adaptation 15/15	Arts & Culture 15/15	Business Retention & Development 20/20	Civic Engagement 10.5/15	Active Living 14.9/15	Green Infrastructure 19.6/20	Best Practices & Processes 10/10
Community Water Systems 15/15	GHG Mitigation 20/20	Community Cohesion 15/15	Green Market Development 14.7/15	Civil & Human Rights 10/10	Community Health & Health Systems 20/20	Invasive Species 6.4/10	Exemplary Performance 10/10
Compact & Complete Communities 19.6/20	Greening the Energy Supply 12.2/15	Educational Opportunity & Attainment 14/20	Local Economy 10.9/15	Environmental Justice 5.3/15	Emergency Prevention & Response 14.3/15	Natural Resource Protection 20/20	Local Innovation 25/25
Housing Affordability 15/15	Industrial Sector Resource Efficiency 10/10	Historic Preservation 7.9/10	Quality Jobs & Living Wages 17.4/20	Equitable Services & Access 18.8/20	Food Access & Nutrition 12.7/15	Outdoor Air Quality 15/15	Regional Priority & Collaboration 5/5
Infill & Redevelopment 9/10	Resource Efficient Buildings 10.5/15	Social & Cultural Diversity 9.6/10	Targeted Industry Development 5.6/15	Human Services 12.4/20	Indoor Air Quality 2.4/5	Water in the Environment 14/20	
Public Spaces 15/15	Resource Efficient Public Infrastructure 7.3/10		Workforce Readiness 14.5/15	Poverty Prevention & Alleviation 18.8/20	Natural & Human Hazards 13/15	Working Lands 8.2/15	
Transportation Choices 17.5/20	Waste Minimization 15/15				Safe Communities 13.6/15		